

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9643
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USMISSION SINAI
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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SUBJECT: ARAB LEAGUE DEPT LEVEL VIEWS OF ARAB
- RECONCILIATION PROSPECTS

REF: AMMAN 4617 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY. ARAB LEAGUE OFFICIALS SEE LITTLE HOPE FOR
RECONCILIATION BETWEEN EGYPT AND "REJECTIONISTS" SINCE
THERE NO COMMON GROUND BETWEEN EGYPT AND SYRIA. PROS-
PECTS FOR RECONCILIATION DEPEND ON FATE OF SADAT
INITIATIVE, WHICH IN TURN DEPENDS ON BEHAVIOR OF ISRAEL.
MINI SUMMIT IMPOSSIBLE NOR IS FULL SUMMIT LIKELY FOR
FORESEEABLE FUTURE. IMPORTANCE OF EXTRAORDINARY SESSION
OF ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL DOWNPLAYED. END SUMMARY.

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1. ON MAY 24-25 EMBOFF SPOKE WITH ABU SEIF RADI FROM
AL DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND FOREIGN RELATIONS, AND
ABDEL RAZAK EMEIR, DIRECTOR OF LEAGUE'S ARAB AFFAIRS
DEPARTMENT. ABU SEIF RADI IS EGYPTIAN WHO STUDIED LAW
AND POLITICAL SCIENCE AT CAIRO UNIVERSITY. HE HAS
WORKED IN LEAGUE FOR TWENTY YEARS. ABDEL RAZAK EMEIR
IS A LIBYAN. HE WAS PERMREP TO THE ARAB LEAGUE FOR TWO

YEARS BEFORE HE JOINED STAFF AS DIRECTOR OF ARAB AFFAIRS IN 1976. HE HAS LAW DEGREE FROM UNIVERSITY OF ALEXANDRIA AND HE LATER STUDIED PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL LAW AT UNIVERSITY OF RABAT WHILE STATIONED AT LIBYAN EMBASSY THERE. HE HOLDS AMBASSADORIAL RANK. BOTH HAD SIMILAR VIEWS ON SUBJECTS DISCUSSED.

"REJECTIONISTS" CAN BE RECONCILED AT PRESENT SINCE THEY SAW NO GROUND FOR COMPROMISE. SYRIAN CONDITION THAT SADAT ANNOUNCE FAILURE OF PEACE INITIATIVE AND RENOUNCE CONTACTS WITH ISRAELIS SEEN AS TOO TOUGH FOR SADAT TO ACCEPT. EMEIR EXPECTS NUMAYRI MISSION TO BE A LONG-TERM PROJECT WHICH WILL NEED HELP OF SAUDIS AND KUWUFFMY IF THERE TO BE ANY HOPE OF SUCCESS (HE WOULD NOT PREDICT IT WOULD SUCCEED).

3. ARAB SUMMIT. WHEN ASKED ABOUT REPORTS OF POSSIBLE "MINI SUMMIT" THEY REPLIED THAT THIS "IMPOSSIBLE". AS FOR POSSIBILITY OF FULL ARAB SUMMIT, THEY DID NOT THINK THIS LIKELY EITHER, AT LEAST FOR A WHILE, BECAUSE THERE WERE "TOO MANY DIFFERENCES". RADI OBSERVED THAT THE SAUDIS, LIKE THE EGYPTIANS, BELIEVED SUMMIT MUST BE WELL PREPARED TO ACHIEVE POSITIVE RESULTS. HE ADDED HE THOUGHT THE "GAP" BETWEEN SAUDI ARABIA AND EGYPT REGARDING SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE WAS NOW CLOSING.

4. ARAB LEAGUE COUNCIL MEETING ON PROBLEMS OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PALESTINIAN PEOPLE IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. EMEIR SAID MEETING WOULD BE AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL BUT SAID HE DID NOT KNOW DATE. HE DOWNPLAYED ITS SIGNIFICANCE, DESCRIBING IT AS "ROUTINE". SUBJECTS INCLUDE RETENTION OF LAND AND THEIR "MOVING" (PRESUMABLY REFERENCE TO MIGRATION NOTED REFTEL). NEITHER MAN SEEMED WELL INFORMED ABOUT THIS MEETING. MATTHEWS

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